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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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33837

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EXAMINER

DAVIS, ZACHARY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2137

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center"><b>Office Action Summary</b></p>	Application No. 09/917,986	Applicant(s) UMEZAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner Zachary A. Davis	Art Unit 2137	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. A response was received on 02 May 2006. By this response, Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are currently pending in the present application.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Specification***

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The specification does not provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation in Claim 7 that the input cancellation unit cancels multiple input digits, when the input cancellation unit cancels a single digit by rotating the dial unit in a reversed direction. See below regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, Claim 7 recites that the input cancellation unit of Claim 1, which cancels a **single** input digit by rotating the dial unit in a reversed direction, further cancels **multiple** input digits. The specification does not appear to provide any explicit description of how multiple input digits can be canceled whatsoever. The Examiner notes that, in the example of a button or switch used as an input cancellation unit (see page 12, line 13-page 13, line 3 of the present specification), it would be reasonable for one of ordinary skill in the art to assume that multiple button or switch presses would cancel multiple digits. However, this does not appear to be extensible to the example in which reversed rotation is used as a cancellation mechanism; that is, it is not clear how multiple digits could be canceled by reversed rotation. The specification does not provide any guidance as to how to distinguish between a reverse rotation that is intended to cancel a single digit and one that is

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intended to cancel multiple digits. Therefore, the claim fails to comply with the written description requirement.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claim 1, 2, 6, and 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "an input cancellation unit for canceling a single input digit of the identification information by rotating the dial unit in a reversed direction". This is generally unclear, as it appears that the subject of "rotating the dial unit" is the "input cancellation unit"; however, the specification implies that it would be the user rotating the dial. This contradiction renders the claims indefinite.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "wherein the input cancellation unit further cancels multiple input digits of the identification information". In light of the description of the input cancellation unit in Claim 1 as canceling a single digit by rotating the dial in a reversed direction, it is not clear how multiple digits would be canceled because it is not clear how to distinguish between rotating in a reversed direction for canceling a single digit and between (assumedly) rotating in reversed direction for canceling multiple digits.

Claims 2 and 6 are rejected due to their dependence on rejected Claim 1.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dawson et al, US Patent 6741160.

In reference to Claim 1, Dawson discloses an input apparatus including a dial unit for inputting alphanumeric characters via rotating operation and generating an electric signal, where the characters are assigned in proportion to rotation angle of the dial and where the dial gives the user a click feel per rotation (column 4, lines 4-13 and 34-39); a unit for confirming characters input by the dial unit (column 7, lines 13-22); a unit for converting the electrical signal into the characters (column 2, lines 13-26); a unit for authenticating the characters by checking if they match the appropriate characters of identification information (column 9, lines 51-65; column 12, lines 18-27); and a unit for canceling a single input digit by rotating the dial in a reversed direction (column 18, lines 44-48).

In reference to Claim 2, Dawson further discloses a conversion table specifying a procedure for converting the signal to corresponding characters and performing conversion in accordance with the procedure (column 15, line 62-column 16, line 23).

In reference to Claim 6, Dawson further discloses a display unit displaying a security level (for example, column 8, lines 13-17).

In reference to Claim 7, Dawson discloses canceling multiple input digits (see column 15, lines 12-18).

### ***Conclusion***

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Knox, US Patent 3576974, discloses a counter that cancels inputs by rotating a dial in the opposite direction.
- b. Dawson et al, US Patent 5451934, discloses a combination lock with a dial unit that uses reversal of rotation as confirmation of entry.
- c. Dawson et al, US Patent 5517184, similarly discloses a combination lock with a dial unit that uses reversal of rotation as confirmation of entry, further dependent on a period of time elapsed.
- d. Hyatt, Jr., US Patent 5604489, discloses a dial for alphanumeric input that only displays a single character at a time.

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- e. Benzler, US Patent 5821871, discloses an authenticator using buttons for incrementing and decrementing an input character, confirming the character, and canceling inputs.
- f. Dawson et al, US Patent 5847656, discloses a combination lock in which reversing the dial will back up by several units in the input.

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary A. Davis whose telephone number is (571) 272-



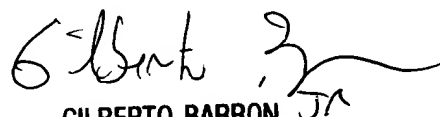
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3870. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 8:30-6:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
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